IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

(Our Case No. 10527US16)

PATENT APPLICATION OF:	)
	)
JOHN R. MARTIN and	)
MICHAEL L. TILLERY	)
	)
SERIAL NO.:	)
	)
FILED:	)
	)
FOR: SYSTEM FOR MANAGING A	)
PLURALITY OF COMPUTER	)
JUKEBOXES	)
	)
EXAMINER: Unassigned	)
	)
GROUP ART UNIT: Unassigned	)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified application, which is being filed pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.53(b), please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the application to read:

--Improved Computer Jukebox and Jukebox Network--

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and substitute the following:

--A central management system manages a plurality of computer jukeboxes and communicates compressed digital data with each jukebox via a transmission link. The management system also includes a host computer that maintains a master set of compressed digital data representing a plurality of songs, song associated graphics, and song identity information. Each jukebox includes a storage unit that is capable of storing a subset of the master set and a processing circuit having a decompression circuit. The processing circuit controls the operation and flow of digital data into and out of the jukebox through the transmission link as well as a visual song information display, user song selection keys, a money detector, and an audio reproduction circuit coupled to a speaker system so as to provide audio output to users of the jukebox.--

On page 1, lines 3-6, delete "This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 07/538,981 filed June 15, 1990." and substitute the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/076,849, filed May 12, 1998, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/584,253, filed January 08, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,781,889, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/268,782, filed June 30, 1994, now abandoned, which is a division of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/846,707, filed March 6, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,355,302.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute the following claims:

--16.   An improved computer jukebox for playing songs selected by users of the computer jukebox from a library of songs that have been digitally compressed and stored in the computer jukebox, where the library of songs stored in the computer jukebox is capable of being updated upon the receipt of compressed digital song data, which represents at least one song, and upon the receipt of song identity data, which represents the identity of each such song, the computer jukebox comprising:

     a communication interface for receiving the compressed digital song data and the song identity data;

     a data storage unit for storing the received compressed digital song data and the received song identity data for each of the songs stored;

     a display for showing, to prospective user of the computer jukebox, information identifying the songs for which digital song data is stored in the data storage unit and that is based on song identity data;

     selection keys responsive to a selection of a song to be played on the computer jukebox from the song identity information displayed on the display, the selection keys including a signal output representing activation of the selection keys;

     at least one audio speaker;

     a processor connected to a memory, the memory including a decompression algorithm for decompressing compressed digital song data;

     a digital to analog converter coupled between the processor and the audio speaker to convert digital song data to an analog signal coupled to the speaker; and

     wherein the memory further includes instructions for:

        causing the processor, in response to the signal output, to access and process compressed digital song data retrieved from the data storage unit so that the accessed compressed digital song data corresponds to the song selected by the selection keys;

3

causing the processor to decompress the accessed compressed digital song data and send the decompressed digital song data to the digital to analog converter so that the song selected is played on the computer jukebox as a result of the corresponding stored compressed song digital data being decompressed and converted by the processor and the digital to analog converter; and

causing the processor to respond to compressed digital song data and to song identity data, which may be received by the communication interface of the computer jukebox, to control the storage of the received compressed digital song data and the received song identity data in the data storage unit to create an updated library of songs stored in the computer jukebox.

17.   The computer jukebox of claim 16, wherein the memory further comprises instructions causing the processor to respond to control the information shown on the display to include the updated library of songs, instructions causing the processor to store song usage data generated upon the playing of a song, and wherein the communications interface includes a transmitter for transmitting song the song usage data under the control of the processor.

18.   The computer jukebox of claim 16, wherein the data storage unit stores compressed pictorial graphics, received by the communication interface, and associated with the compressed digital song data.

19.   The computer jukebox of claim 18, wherein the compressed pictorial graphics represent song associated pictorial graphics; and wherein the memory further comprises instructions causing the processor, when no song is playing on the computer jukebox, to generate a user attract mode wherein song associated graphic images are shown on the display.

20.   The computer jukebox of claim 16, wherein the communication interface is selected from the group consisting essentially of: modems, radio frequency transmitters and receivers, and direct communication interface ports, and wherein the data storage unit stores compressed song identity data as received by the communication interface.

21.   The computer jukebox of claim 16, wherein the display is at least 14 inches in diagonal measure.

22.   An improved computer jukebox network comprising: a plurality of computer jukeboxes where each computer jukebox is capable of playing songs selected by users of the computer jukebox from a library of songs that have been digitally compressed and stored in the computer jukebox and where the library of songs is capable of being updated upon the receipt of compressed digital song data, which represents at least one song, and upon the receipt of song identity data which represents the identity of each such song; and a management station for updating the library of songs in each of the plurality of computer jukeboxes;

with each computer jukebox comprising:

a communication interface for receiving the compressed digital song data and the song identity data;

a data storage unit for storing the received compressed digital song data and the received song identity data for each of the songs stored;

a display for showing, to prospective user of the computer jukebox, information based on song identity data for identifying the songs for which digital song data is stored in the data storage unit;

selection keys responsive to a selection of a song to be played on the computer jukebox from the song identity information displayed on the display, the selection keys including a signal output representing activation of the selection keys;

at least one audio speaker;

a processor connected to a memory, the memory including a decompression algorithm for decompressing compressed digital song data;

a digital to analog converter coupled between the processor and the audio speaker to convert digital song data to an analog signal coupled to the speaker; and

wherein the memory further includes instructions for:

causing the processor, in response to the signal output, to access and process compressed digital song data retrieved from the data storage unit so that the accessed compressed digital song data corresponds to the song selected by the selection keys;

causing the processor to decompress the accessed compressed digital song data and send the decompressed digital song data to the digital to analog converter so that the song selected is played on the computer jukebox as a result of the corresponding stored compressed digital song data being decompressed and converted by the processor and the digital to analog converter; and

causing the processor to respond to compressed digital song data and to song identity data, which may be received by the communication interface of the computer jukebox, to control the storage of the received compressed digital song data and the received song identity data in the data storage unit to create an updated library of songs stored in the computer jukebox; and

wherein the management station comprises:

a communication interface including a receiver and a transmitter; and

a management station processor connected to a management station memory, the management station memory including instructions for:

causing the management station processor to store digital song data, representing a set of songs, and song identity data, representing the identity of each song in the set of songs in a management station data storage unit;

causing the management station processor to compress digital song data stored in the management station data storage unit;

causing the management station processor to compress and transmit a subset of the digital song data and transmit corresponding song identity data to at least one selected computer jukebox to update the library of songs in the computer jukebox.

23. The jukebox network of claim 22 wherein the management station is remote from the computer jukeboxes; and wherein the communication interface of each computer jukebox is a bi-directional communication interface.

24. The jukebox network of claim 22 wherein the management station is portable; and wherein the communications interface of the management station and at least one computer jukebox is a direct communication link interface.

25.   The jukebox network of claim 22, wherein the memory in each computer jukebox further comprises instructions causing the processor to respond to control the information shown on the display to include the updated library of songs.

26.   The jukebox network of claim 22, wherein the memory in each computer jukebox further comprises instructions causing the processor to store song usage data generated upon the playing of a song, and wherein the communications interface includes a transmitter for transmitting song the song usage data under the control of the processor.

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed April 25, 2001 in the parent application, Serial No. 09/076,849, Claims 16-26 (which are the same as the claims 16-26 being added to this application by this Preliminary Amendment) were rejected solely under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. A Terminal Disclaimer will be filed in this application as soon as the Office advises applicants of the Serial No. and filing date assigned to this application. Applicants submit that the filing of this Terminal Disclaimer will overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejections of Claims 16-26.

Applicants will also file, as soon as the Office advises applicants of the Serial No. and filing date assigned to this application, an Invention Disclosure Statement. The citations included in that Statement are from information furnished by defendants in connection with defendants' patent invalidity contentions, which relate to Arachnid's U.S. Patent No. 5,781,889, asserted in the now settled civil action, Captioned: Arachnid, Inc. v. Touchtunes Digital Jukebox, Inc. and Technical Maintenance Corp., Inc., Civil Action No. 98 C 3765, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.   The same citations were noted in Invention

Disclosure Statements filed in applicants' co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/502,875, filed

February 11, 2000.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that with the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer,

this application will be in condition to be passed to issue. Prompt action in this regard is requested.

Should anything remain in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is

invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
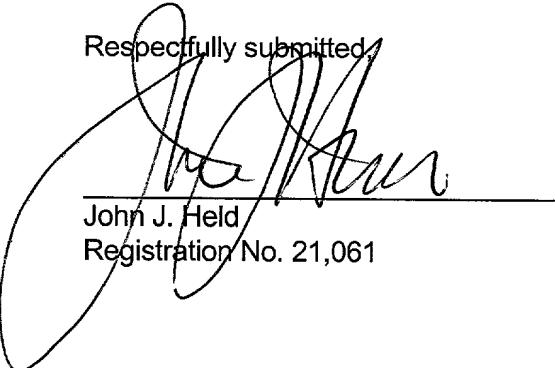
John J. Held
Registration No. 21,061

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 W. Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000

Date: 5/23/01